

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**



**Vol. XLI No. 2**

**June, 1971**

Published by the

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION**

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.00 a year, single copies \$1.00 each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.25. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are five classes as follows: Life Member, \$100.00, payable in four equal installments; Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$4.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

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 EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE

235 McCLELLAN BLVD.  
 DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

Published quarterly by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa, 52803. Second class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. Subscription \$4.00, single copies \$1.00.



**CONVENTION****FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Cedar Rapids, Iowa May 7, 8 and 9, 1971

Members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union met at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 7, 8 and 9, 1971, for the 49th annual convention, guests of the Audubon Naturalist Society of Cedar Rapids.

Those arriving Friday evening were privileged to attend the Audubon Screen Tour film, "This Earth, This Realm, This England," by C. P. Lyons at Sinclair Auditorium, Coe College. In a colorful panorama of the countryside of England and Wales, he explores the chalk and turf downs of Sussex and Kent, the heathlands of Dartmoor and Exmoor, Peter Scott's Slimbridge, to see the largest and most varied collection of waterfowl in the world, Ramsey Island and famed Farne Islands rich with nesting birds. Following the film, an informal reception was held in the West Gallery.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

At 7:30 Saturday morning a group met at Holiday Inn for the trip to Morgan Creek Park for a banding display by Jim Rod and John Faaborg. After registration, the group was welcomed by Eldon Johnson, President of the Audubon Naturalist Society of Cedar Rapids, followed by a response by Beryl Layton, President of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. The meeting was then turned over to John Faaborg, Vice President, who was in charge of the program, as follows:

Judge Charles and Darleen Ayres, Ottumwa. On May 10, 1969, The Ayres heard a Chuck-will's-widow at Camp Arrowhead, three miles southeast of Ottumwa. On May 25, 1969, a female "Chuck" was caught in the net and banded, but it was not until May 21, 1970, that Darleen Ayres discovered two eggs of the Chuck-will's-widow. Following that exciting moment were daily trips to the nest to take a series of pictures of eggs, adult birds on the nest and eventually the young birds. These pictures were shown. Along with comments about the "Chuck" Judge Ayres mentioned that they had also banded several other birds whose ranges are considered to be farther south, among them being the White-eyes Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Parula Warbler, Kentucky Warbler and Summer Tanager.

The Tape Recorder as a birding tool, Jim Rod, Ames. Both enjoyment and efficiency are increased by the use of a tape recorder. The speaker has found that the reel to reel type is most satisfactory and that the portable, battery operated machine is the most adaptable. The recorder may be used in several ways. Bird calls which you do not recognize in the field may be recorded and played back later for identification. If you are birding in a new area, a series of bird calls may be played to call in the birds. An extension speaker may be played to call in the birds. An extension speaker may be placed under mist nets and by playing owl calls, the owls can be brought into the nets. The Screech Owl call also brings in small birds.

Birds of Swan Lake, Manitoba, Robert Bergman, Iowa State University, Ames. Mr. Bergman is a graduate in Wildlife Biology and working on his master's degree. He and John Faaborg spent the summer and fall of 1969 studying waterfowl ecology on Swan Lake, an area of 120 square miles. He showed slides of various habitats and birds on the lake and islands therein, among them being Western Grebe colonies along the shore line, Pied-billed Grebe, Pelicans on a sandbar -- non-breeding, but there is a nesting colony at Pelican Lake east of Swan Lake. Over 200 species of birds were seen in the Swan Lake area.

"Varied" observations, James Lundstrom, Cedar Rapids. Among the winter birds at his feeder, Mr. Lundstrom noted one unknown to him. He called in Lillian Serbousek and others from the Cedar Rapids club to observe and identify the bird. He showed a film he had taken of the activities at his feeder, which included this "mystery bird." It turned out to be a Varied Thrush, a bird of western North America which nests in the spruce forests. It was a rare privilege for Cedar Rapids people to observe this bird and to have it on film.

Displays: There was a display of bird oriented tapestries from the W. D. MacKenzie Co. Their representative, James R. Kimber, was present to take orders from all who might desire to use these materials in their homes.

Five life-sized color prints (Saw-whet Owl, Black-throated Green Warbler, Woodcock, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Red-tailed Hawk) were on display by Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonneckner, representatives of Natura Originals, Inc., Bettendorf, Iowa.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Saturday afternoon program started with a film entitled "A Bird in the Hand, a Bird in the Bush" on the painting techniques of Don Eckleberry. The picture was introduced by Mrs. Dwight Brooke who has three times visited Spring Hill Estate, a cocoa plantation on Trinidad where this picture was taken. Woody and Mary Brown have also visited there and Peter and Mary Lou Petersen will be there next month.

The film showed the colorful life of Trinidad. It showed Mr. Eckleberry and his native assistant catching birds in mist nets and gathering wild plants. He prefers to paint from life and the plants must be appropriate to the species.

Bird life in Trinidad is very colorful and prolific. Mr. Eckleberry stated that there could be one hundred or more species to an acre. Years of field work are necessary to get to know the birds well enough to paint them properly. He uses water colors for fast work. Many of his pictures are begun in the field and finished later in his studio.

#### SELECTED SHORT TOPICS IN IOWA ORNITHOLOGY:

Basis needs for "Iowa Bird Life"; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport. The following are some of the suggestions and ideas for an improved "Iowa Bird Life" outlined by our editor:

When you send something in for printing, it should be self-edited, double-spaced on white paper.

Major articles are needed. These are articles which are more than one page, probably illustrated, on a topic of Iowa birds or birds seen by IOU members.



Articles are needed for the new series "Where to Find Birds in Iowa." Include a map if possible.

General Notes: Something rare, unusual activity, anything of interest to our readers. Photographs may be included, glossy prints being the best.

A book review on a recently published work would be welcome. It should follow the format of previous reviews in **Iowa Bird Life**.

A Conservation Section could be a new feature, if someone would volunteer to write it.

A map of the state showing the number of IOU members in each county could be used.

A section on banding recoveries would be interesting.

**Bird Banding**; Jim Rod, Ames. In the past ten years, all the banders in Iowa have averaged about 18,000 birds a year or a total of approximately 200,000 birds in ten years. That is a lot of work by a lot of workers, stated our speaker, Jim Rod. He showed slides of the mist nets and traps used in capturing the birds and also showed a number of the birds caught and banded. He also told of a number of projects Iowa banders have undertaken.

Pete Petersen has led in the number of birds banded every year since the summer began in 1962 until this last year when the Laytons exceeded him. He has banded by far more birds than anyone else in the state. He bands lots of warblers, several thousand gulls in Wisconsin every year, and has over ten years' of data on banding in Pine Hill Cemetery in Davenport.

The Ayres have specialized in weighing, banding and measuring purple finches.

Mrs. DeLong has a migration project on Harris Sparrows.

Mrs. Diggs has banded many thousands of Harris Sparrows and Tree Sparrows, although most of her work is done just south of the Iowa boundary in Missouri.

Dean Roosa has been working on nesting Red-tailed Hawks for many years.

John Faaborg and Jim Rod band many Cliff Swallows and Bank Swallows.

**National Breeding Bird Survey**; Joe Brown, Des Moines. Mr. Brown told us of a fairly new area in birding. In 1966, the Fish and Wildlife Service started an annual survey in June under the direction of Chandler Robbins. It is to measure changes in the abundance of North American breeding birds. The routes are computer selected with 50 stops -- three minutes at each stop, to look and listen and put down everything you see or hear. Several routes in Iowa are not being covered. Anyone interested in a route should sign up at once. The speaker's slides showed equipment, routes and charts. He read instructions and told of his experiences with a route through Des Moines.

Peter C. Petersen, suggested that perhaps next summer the I.O.U. might organize a FORAY, it being a group of naturalists meeting together in some area and staying for a weekend either camping or staying in motels. The purpose would be to make an ecological survey of a little known area in Iowa. Details will be provided in the September issue of **IBL**.

## BUSINESS MEETING

At 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, May 8, 1971, President Beryl Layton called the business meeting to order.

Pearle C. Walker, Secretary, read the minutes of the business meeting held May 16, 1970. The minutes were accepted as read.

Woodward H. Brown gave the treasurer's report which was approved as read. (It was not pointed out in the treasurer's report that five issues of *Iowa Bird Life* were included, making an apparent deficit. It was really not a deficit when only four issues are considered).

There was considerable discussion in regard to paying the expenses of the conventions. Various suggestions were made such as increasing the cost of registration, letting the host group take care of part of the expenses and asking business firms in the convention city to donate towards the cost of the speaker. It was pointed out that conventions should be budgeted to at least break even.

President Layton brought before the group the question of where to house our library and whether to retain only back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* and dispose of the balance. There had been a called meeting of the officers and executive council on March 28, 1971, to inspect the library. A flyer was included with the March 1971 *Iowa Bird Life* alerting the membership to the problem. After much discussion, Robert Nickolson made a motion "That we keep the back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* - and information pertaining to Iowa and dispose of those not directly related." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Brooke.

Dr. Myrle Burk made an amendment to the foregoing motion "That a committee be formed to evaluate what should be retained and what should be disposed of." Seconded by Mrs. Hanna. Since there was some confusion over the wording of the motion and amendment, they were put to vote and both defeated.

A new motion was made by Jim Rod, "That a committee be appointed to consist of the officers of record right now, excluding the Executive Council, plus Fred Pierce as advisor, to evaluate the present IOU library and empowering the committee to dispose of those items not directly related to Iowa as they best see fit by giving some of it away or by selling it at whatever price the market will carry." Seconded by John Osness, Waterloo. The motion was put to vote and carried. It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

## SATURDAY EVENING

At 6:30 Saturday evening a delicious banquet was served at Holiday Inn.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. David Parmelee, James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, presented "Birds and Mammals of the High Arctic." His slides of this far-north country where the temperature goes down to 50 degrees and 60 degrees below zero, pictured some of the wildlife including the Musk Ox, Caribou and Arctic Hare, Birds shown included the Arctic Loon, Canada Goose, Ross Goose, Brandt, Old-squaw, King Eider, Knot, Sanderling, Glaucous Gull and Snowy Owl. A humorous tale was of finding Redpolls nesting in an old, imported Christmas tree that had been tossed out into the snow.



## SUNDAY MORNING

Many Owl-enthusiasts met at 4:30 Sunday morning for a trip to a wooded area. Jim Rod and John Faaborg played their owl recording over and over. Eventually a call was heard in the distance and by the time we had to leave for breakfast, at least three Barred Owls were in nearby trees. It was a brief demonstration of what can be done with the aid of a tape recorder.

After a bountiful breakfast, we divided into groups for field trips, coming in to Mohawk Park Pavilion for a good luncheon.

## BUSINESS MEETING

President Layton called the final business meeting to order. The Auditing Committee reported that they had examined the books and found them to be in good order and recommended that they be approved. Robert Nickolson, Chairman, Mrs. Robert Nickolson, Mr. Bill Lonacker.

The report of the Resolutions Committee:

"Be it resolved that members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union give their thanks to members of the Audubon Naturalist Society of Cedar Rapids for preparations of the Spring meeting. From the Audubon Wildlife Film and reception on Friday night on through to the picnic and final compilation of birds seen on field trips, it was a resounding success.

"Be it resolved a thanks to those who presented papers and displays for the meeting on Saturday, including the display of bird oriented tapestries and pictures by the W. D. MacKenzie Co. of Cedar Rapids.

"Be it resolved a hearty round of thanks to officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for their faithful and good work this year. For special thanks we single out Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Johnson and John Faaborg, and we give a note of thanks to Peter C. Petersen for continuing to edit *Iowa Bird Life*.

"A resolution of thanks to Dr. David Parmelee, assistant Director of the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, for coming to the meeting to show his outstanding collection of slides of birds and mammals of the High Arctic at the banquet.

"And be it further resolved that because we care, members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union should be active in preserving and husbanding the natural resources of the land, rivers and skies over this great state of Iowa, seeking to keep the habitats a welcoming place for birds which are native to the state as well as those that migrate through it." Respectfully submitted, Darrell M. Hanna, Chairman, Esther Copp, Mrs. Robert Vane.

The Nominating Committee reported these nominations:

President, John Osness, Waterloo; Vice President, Jim Rod, Ames; Secretary, Pearle C. Walker, Ottumwa; Treasurer, Woodward H. Brown, Des Moines; Librarian, Mrs. Beryl Layton, Cedar Rapids; Executive Council: Beryl Layton, Cedar Rapids; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, Iowa; Robert Nickolson, Sioux City, Iowa. It was moved by Mr. Brooke and seconded by Mr. Mooney that the report be accepted and these names be declared elected. Motion carried.

Mr. Woodward H. Brown expressed his appreciation to the Cedar Rapids Club for their generous donation towards the expense of publishing *An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa*.

John Osness, on behalf of the Waterloo Audubon Society, invited the IOU to Waterloo for the 1972 Spring Convention.

Judge Charles C. Ayres, Jr. conducted the compilation of birds observed Sunday, May 9. One hundred forty-two species were seen May 9. Three additional species were observed May 8. Adjournment. Pearle Walker, Secy.

#### ATTENDANCE REGISTER

AMES: Bob Bergman, John Faaborg, Jim Rod.

BETTENDORF: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lonnecker.

BURLINGTON: Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Mrs. Paul Niemann.

CEDAR FALLS: Berneda Collins, Pauline Sauer, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Mrs. Thomas Aycock, Sue Appert, Floy Erickson, John Franklin, Eleanore Fullerton, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Goellner, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Johnson, Evelyn Kast, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Rodney Middlebrook, Sara Millikin, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Norris, Virginia Olson, Roberta Oppedahl, Lillian Serbousek, Connie Speer, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Jaraslova Wheatley, Myra Willism, W. E. Wilson.

CORALVILLE: Clara Emlen.

DAVENPORT: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen.

DES MOINES: Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Virginia Van Liew.

DEWITT: Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Butts, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Scott.

DUBUQUE: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley, Clifford Johnson, Ival Schuster.

FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward.

HAMBURG: Mrs. Edwin Getscher.

INDIANOLA: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnson.

IOWA CITY: Charles Hale, Malcolm Rohrbough.

JESUP: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt.

KEOSAUQUA: Dr. Warren Keck.

KEOTA: Kathy Fisher.

LAMONI: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. W. C. DeLong.

MARENGO: R. R. Schroeder.

MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy Brunner, Mrs. Norman Eige.

MELCHER: Bill Mason.

MT. PLEASANT: Edward M. Jensen, Dr. R. W. Poulter.

NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.

OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton.

OTTUMWA: Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Leona Havens, Pearle C. Walker.

PATON: Mr. and Mrs. Wiltse McWilliam.

PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys Black.

REINBECK: Mrs. John Ehlers.

SHENANDOAH: Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Zollars.



SIOUX CITY: Helen G. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs.

Robert Nickolson, Mr. and Mrs. Garland Roose, Edward Sibley.

VINTON: Mr. and Mrs. Jack McDowell.

WATERLOO: Dr. Myrle Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Ruth Halliday, Helen Hawkins, Mabelle Hinkley, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness.

WHEATLAND: Esther Copp.

WYOMING: Wilma Mayberry.

LA MOILLE, MINNESOTA: Pauline Wershofen.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: Eunice Stout.

PORT BYRON, ILLINOIS: Ralph Money.

ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN: Fred Lesher. Total: 115.

List of Birds Seen on Field Trips May 9, 1971:

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total 142. Species seen Saturday only: Black-crowned Night Heron, Baird's Sandpiper, Harris' Sparrow.

## A Message from the new President

Thank you for the honor of being elected to be your President. I shall endeavor to serve you to the best of my ability.

My wife Lois, our son Nick, and I are indebted to many people for helping us become birders. We date our interest from 1957 as that was the year that Miss Pearl Lyon, Nick's second grade teacher, encouraged his interest and ours by introducing us to the Audubon Wildlife Films, the Waterloo Audubon Society, and Dr. Myrle Burk, who in turn introduced us to the IOU. Our education by all the fine people in these various organizations that we have had the pleasure of associating with has made our birding activities a real joy.



Our organization needs to make our activities more attractive to more people. Since our field trips are one of the outstanding attractions I hereby suggest that we make a bigger flash by establishing a "Daylight Spring Ahead Bird Count" to supplement the local and state activities. The following ideas are proposed to make it compatible with existing local activities, but add statewide recognition and association.

1. Designate the last week-end in April, which is when our clocks are set ahead to Daylight Savings Time, as the time for this bird count. Count on Saturday and Sunday to involve a lot of people that can't be there if it is only a one day count.

2. Have the compilation occur at noon so that more people will be involved in it. (Many enthusiasts won't spend a whole day at it.)

3. Recognize personal counts in a competitive way, with emphasis on accomplishments of beginners so that they will be encouraged to attend the spring convention of the IOU.

4. Give recognition to these local activities at the state level by having them reported at the annual meeting. Emphasize that this serves as a warm up session for the annual spring count at the IOU convention. (Many of us know that we get rusty thru the winter and need a good field trip to sharpen our eyes and our memories.) People should and do want to get to the state convention to brag about their local accomplishments and try to outdo themselves at the state field trips.

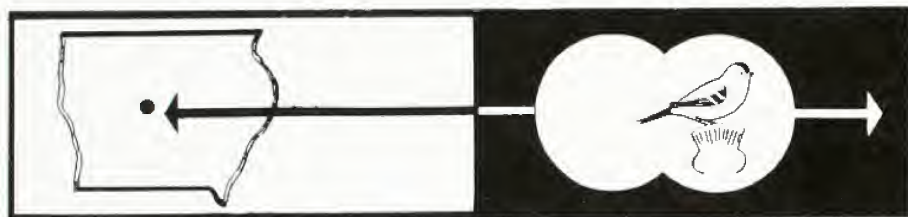
5. Follow the Christmas Bird Count rules, except for the schedule of hours. Designate the area to be covered each day to avoid duplication and better assure thorough coverage of the whole area.

6. Continue to schedule the annual spring convention the second Sunday in May so that the "Daylight Spring Ahead Bird Count" will precede it just enough to build up interest and augment the enthusiasm as it should.

Bring your suggestions about this and-or other interest bearing ideas to the fall meeting so that we can present and publicize our activities for the coming year.

John Osness of Waterloo





## Birding Areas of Iowa

### Ames-Story County-Ledges State Park

JAMES P. ROD  
1508 Kellogg Ave.  
AMES

Ames 1970 population: 39,505

Area covered by this report: 600 sq. miles (appr.)

Bird Club: Ames Audubon Society

#### Introduction

Although the earliest records of Iowa birds are to be found in the journals of the Jesuit priest Marquette and his companion Joliet, who followed the Mississippi River past Iowa in 1673, 220 years would pass before published references were made to birds in the Story County area. During the 1890's Ball, Bryan, Henning, and Newell contributed notes from this area to the *Iowa Ornithologist*, a magazine that pre-dated by some 37 years our present *Iowa Bird Life*.

When the old Iowa Ornithological Association convened in Ames for its fourth annual congress on Sept. 21, 1898, both Ames and Story County presented a much different aspect than they do today. Since that time the Skunk River has been straightened and diked below Ames; marshes, prairies, and potholes have bowed before the plow, the population of the county has increased tremendously, and suburbs have crept into the wooded valleys of Skunk River and Squaw Creek. A proposed dam and reservoir on the Skunk River by the US Corps of Army Engineers may eliminate another good share of woodland habitat in the county. But, despite the inroads of civilization, birds are by no means scarce in the county.

About 275 species have been recorded in Story County and the birder that makes an effort to visit the cross-section of marshes, lakes, fields, river bottoms, and upland woods during the appropriate seasons should be able to break 200 any year, especially if Ledges State Park is included.

Ames city maps are available on the back of the 1971 Highway Commission road maps and Story County maps are available on the *Tour Story County* brochures described below. However, all areas should be easily located without them.

#### River Bottoms

**Brookside Park**, located in the Squaw Creek bottom just north of Sixth St. is a city park composed of about equal areas of open, wooded picnic grounds and fairly dense woodland. This park is excellent for warblers in spring and fall and has resident Screech, Horned, and Barred Owls. An Audubon nature trail runs through the north half.

**Squaw Creek Park** is a smaller city park directly south of the Highway Commission headquarters that is good during migrations. There are picnic areas.

**River Valley Park.** This recent large addition to the city park system is a greenbelt that extends about two miles north along the Skunk River from 13th. St. Picnic areas and ball diamonds are interspersed with natural river bottom habitat and hiking trails. The main east entrance may be reached by driving north on the gravel road just east of the 13th St. bridge. Shortly after Macdonald Woods Park (a good small upland woods) is passed on the left and the Izaak Walton Park is passed on the right, the entrance to River Valley will be seen on the left. Other parts of this and adjoining parks may be reached from Ames at the east end of 20th and 24th Sts. The area is good year around.

**Inis Grove Park** is located at the east end of 24th St. east of Grand Ave. in Ames and contains both river bottom and upland woods and picnic areas with shelters. It is just across the river from the above park.

**Sopers Mill Access** is a county-owned 18 acre park 2½ miles east of the Highway 69 Gilbert corner north of Ames. Located on the Skunk River, this is another good warbler spot. Other portions of the Skunk River and Squaw Creek bottoms may be reached by driving the many gravel roads north of Ames.

#### **Other Areas**

**Emma McCarthy Lee Park** is just south of Ross Road in west Ames and is an excellent area for woodland birds all year.

**Pammel Woods**, owned by the University, is only a few blocks from the above park and just west of the ISU golf course. This is a mature woodland reserve that is good for warblers and wildflowers.

**Robison's Acres** is a 58 acre undeveloped wildlife sanctuary composed of woodland and brushy fields maintained by the Story County Conservation Board. It is two miles east of Iowa Center and adjoins the Indian Creek Izaak Walton Park.

**Zumwalt Railroad Park.** This hiking trail on the bed of the abandoned Fort Dodge, Des Moines, and Southern railroad extends approximately two miles southwest of Ames from near the Towers dormitory complex south of the University residential area. It's terminus is the old brick depot and picnic area along a gravel road. This is an enjoyable spring birding walk.

**Onion Creek.** By driving north on North Dakota Ave., which crosses Highway 30 about one mile west of Ames, approximately two miles or about three-quarters of a mile past the end of the blacktop Onion Creek is crossed. Park the car near the bridge and follow the creek east along the north bank for about one-third of a mile. The entire creek bottom is good for migrants and the small grove of red and white pines that is eventually reached always holds a Saw-whet Owl or two in the early and late winter and is a favorite roosting area for numbers of accipiters in the spring and fall, especially during the first two weeks of April. Woodcock perform their courtship flights in the large pasture just west of the pine grove during April and there is an active beaver dam on the creek not far from the pine grove. An occasional Sharp-shin or Saw-whet spends the winter here.



### **Pine Groves**

There are a number of pine groves that are excellent during the winter months. Among these are the Ames Cemetery at the east end of Ninth St., the Nevada Cemetery on old Highway 30 in Nevada, the State Forest Nursery and Ames Nursery south of Ames on Highway 69, a large grove of pines south of the Ames High School, and a similar grove at the south end of South Franklin Ave. in west Ames.

### **Natural Lakes and Marshes**

**Little Wall Lake**, just outside of Story County and about two miles south of Jewell on Highway 69, was once a natural marsh. It has been dredged and flooded and is now essentially an open water lake. Nonetheless, it is a good area for diving ducks, grebes, and an occasional loon in early spring. As soon as motorboaters and fishermen begin using the area in the spring, however, most of the waterfowl fly about three miles north and join those on the following lake.

**Anderson Lake**, formerly called Goose Lake and now owned by a duck-hunting club, is an excellent marsh for waterfowl and other marsh species in the spring. It is located about one mile east of Jewell on Highway 175 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north. Good views can be obtained from the gravel road. A walk along the railroad tracks at the south end will usually turn up shorebirds unless water levels are exceptionally high.

**Tieg's Marsh** is a privately-owned marsh that covers most of a section three miles west of Story City. Permission should be obtained to bird the area.

**Hendrickson's Marsh** is the largest marsh in the county and is located four miles south and four and one half miles east of Colo. This marsh, one mile long, is maintained by the State Conservation Commission and is named after the late George Hendrickson, professor at ISU for many years. It is an excellent area for shorebirds and has concentrations of herons and Common Egrets in the fall. There is a cattle egret record for late April this year. The marsh is rather open but still attracts large numbers of ducks and geese. Hunting is allowed.

### **Artificial Lakes and Lagoons**

Waste treatment lagoons are to be found just south of Roland and just east of Jewell and should not be overlooked for ducks and shorebirds in the spring.

**Hallet's Quarry** just north of Ames on Highway 69 often has mergansers and diving ducks and there is a wet, marshy meadow west of the highway and south of the quarry that often holds rails, marsh wrens, and similar species.

**McFarlands Lake Park** is county-owned and consists of about 30 acres of woodlands, 60 of open fields good for Grasshopper Sparrows, and an eight acre lake. There are picnic sites. McFarland's Lake is reached by driving north on Dayton Ave. past the National Animal Disease Laboratory east of Ames until a T-intersection is reached on the gravel. Turn right to the lake.

**Hickory Grove Park**, located two miles southwest of Colo is a 368 acre park owned by the county with a 98 acre lake that often holds diving ducks in the early spring. All three species of mergansers have been observed here at one time.

#### **Ledges State Park**

In 1896, when Carl Fritz Henning was publishing bird notes from the Ledges, the small creek that flows through the park was called Pea's Creek. While the name has changed today to Pease Creek, the habitat along the creek upstream from the picnic areas in the lower park has probably changed little.

By parking the car near where Pease Creek flows under the blacktop that winds down to the lower reaches of the park from the bluffs and main entrance to the east and proceeding upstream, the birder will be rewarded at any season. Spring is especially good for warblers but summer residents should not be overlooked as they include such species as Sapsuckers, Veeries, Scarlet Tanagers, Gnatcatchers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Cerulean and Blue-winged Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Ceruleans are decidedly common as they frequent the very tops of the tall trees. Blue-winged Warblers may be found in several brushy clearings along the creek banks. In addition to these birds, there are records this year of Parula, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers. A Yellow-throated Warbler has appeared for three consecutive years and may be found singing along the creek almost any time of day.

A resident flock of Turkey Vultures may be seen roosting in dead trees about 200 yards north of the nature trail parking lot and west of the gravel road in the south end of the park. As many as a dozen Woodcock have been observed in late May performing their courtship flights over the prairie just inside the main east entrance.

Ledges is surely unique among areas in the state considering the numbers and diversity of uncommon birds that are to be found here.

#### **Further Suggestions.**

A 27 acre prairie located on the grounds of the Ames High School at the west end of 20th St. is worth a visit during the summer when other areas are not too productive. Through the efforts of the Ames Conservation Council this area was leased to the Nature Conservancy for a period of 49 years and is rich in wildflowers throughout the summer months. A small creek and some second growth make it surprisingly productive during migrations.

**Tour Story County** brochures are available at Ames banks and at the public library on Sixth St. These were prepared by the County Conservation Board and enable the birder to absorb some history and view points of interest in the county while driving to various areas listed above.

The Iowa State University Library contains hundreds of general and specialized works on birds and a large collection of the major national and international journals and periodicals on birds and other biological subjects. In addition, the Science Building, located one block east of the library, contains a large collection of mounted American and Mexican specimens and a representative collection of museum skins. Included are Passenger Pigeon, Cattle Egret, and Whooping Crane.

The Ames Audubon Society meets monthly except in the summer and conducts field trips to local areas during the spring and fall. The Audubon Nature Trail in



Brookside Park has self-guiding brochures available at the City Hall Annex at the west end of Main St.

Plan to visit some of these areas during the coming year and you will be pleasantly surprised to discover what Story County and Ledges State Park have to offer the birder away from home.

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## Iowa's King of Game Birds

GLENN RAY DOWNING

Idaho State University

POCATELLO, Idaho

A startling sound checked our walk up the dry creek bed, and we stopped short at the noise from the undergrowth alongside us. Something just shot out of the bushes. We stood in awe while the feathered projectile sped away with thundering wings in a headlong flight through parting twigs and whirling leaves, disappearing in the thick of the trees in an instant. It our introduction to the Ruffed Grouse, Iowa's king of game birds. Our experience at this time was to be repeated again the same day when, parting the branches of a dogwood, we gazed upon a hen grouse with seven young just as they took the air with a whirl of wings!

Many years ago, on a June day, two youths and I were strolling along Ridgewood, that ridge bluff between McGregor and Marquette in Clayton County. To our great surprise, a hen Ruffed Grouse calmly strutted out of a patch of jewelweed before us, apparently quite unafraid, possibly endeavoring to lead us away from the spot where she had young. Another example of these birds' apparent disinterest at times of human intrusion occurred when a group of botanists was convened in a laboratory class in one of the cottages on Ridgewood. We heard a hen grouse call and, going to the window, saw her with a brood of five young birds following her about, catching insects, as they all strolled slowly through a tangle of honeysuckle, boneset, and sweet cicely.

In the north the Ruffed Grouse is known as the partridge; Southerners call it the pheasant. In some places it is known as both. A McGregorite once argued with me that there was no such thing as a Ruffed Grouse -- but there was a woods pheasant!

The nest of the Ruffed Grouse is a hollow or depression in the ground close to a stump or tree, lined with leaves. Eggs usually number from eight to fourteen, but in some cases as high as fifteen. A nest was found on the McGregor Heights that contained eight pale ochreous-buff eggs. The eggs all hatch at the same time, a roving little band of striped downy chicks that can run about almost as soon as they come from the shells! They seem to be fully equipped to be on their own, and able to fly well in about a week, but they stay with the mother until the following spring. She serves as a shelter, guard, and protector.



Ruffed Grouse

(Courtesy Iowa State University, Extension Circular 228, June, 1936)



When the maples and oaks begin to turn brilliant colors on Iowa's wooded hillsides, the brood, now well grown, seeks the wild fruits so abundant everywhere such as thorn apples, sumac, and wild grapes. During these autumn days the drumming of the male grouse may be heard from the deep timber. On the bluff trail at Pike's Peak State Park there was a fallen red oak tree that was used as a drumming log by a male grouse. We often inspected this fallen log and were always hopeful we would catch a glimpse of the drummer.

According to Professor Paul A. Vohs, Jr. in his article "The Ruffed Grouse, A Renewable Resource" appearing in *Iowa Farm Science*, October, 1968, intensive use of land that resulted in forested areas being converted to agricultural fields altered the environment, and the ruffed grouse disappeared from all but the northeast Iowa scene in the early 1900's. Here they range in areas that are covered with deciduous forests that traverse narrow valleys, have steep slopes, and end in cultivated fields that occupy the ridge tops. Professor Vohs states that these slopes vary from nearly vertical ones of approximately 300 feet differential from the bottom to the top, to slightly more gentle slopes. Fringes of deciduous forest from the top of the slopes to the edges of the cultivated fields vary in width from 100 to 300 feet. Studies indicate that the grouse seem to prefer stages in forest succession that contain brush, aspen, young oak and stands of open woods with patches of brambles. These and other biological studies are being carried on, as well as management investigations in relation to hunting seasons. It is hoped that Northeast Iowa will never change so radically that Iowa's King of game birds will cease to live here.

## FIELD REPORTS

The month of April was cool, dry, and windy and more like the usual March. There was some rain with more wind and cool temperatures in the third week. May was cool during the first week with some wind and rain and the third week brought violent windstorms.

**Loons, Grebes, Cormorants.** A Common Loon, seen several times at West Twin Lake, was still there on 19 May (WHB). Grebes, other than Pied-billed which have been numerous, appear scarce; Horned were seen on 8 April and 2 May (DK) and 29 March (PP) with a few observations at Des Moines, but the only report of the Eared was of one on 25 March (LS). A flock of 50 Cormorants was observed on 27 April (DH).

**Hérons, Bitterns.** Great Blue Herons have been late and few; 1 on 20 March (JK), and 2 on 3 April (FK). On 26 April at Red Rock nest construction was started by 10 with 5 nests built (GB). An adult Little Blue Heron was seen on 26 April (GB). Cattle Egrets have been reported; near Seymour on 5 May (PLS), 2 on the same date at Lohrville with another probable the week before (IHMCD), and another on 6 May near Sumner (CH). Only 1 Common Egret has been seen at Red Rock (GB), and one at Twin Lakes on 29 April (DM) was again sighted on 19 May. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen on 4 April (WC) and 1 May (LS). American Bitterns were thought more numerous (JR).

**Geese, Ducks.** Geese were thought late in arriving (FK), and stayed rather late (GB). Migration was considered good but not unusual (DH). Forty Canadas arrived at Red Rock on 21 February and peaked at 1000 on 27 March (GB). White-fronted were more numerous (JR), 8 were seen at Muskrat Slough on 3 April (LS), 60 on the same date were the most ever seen in the area (FK), and 6 were seen at Red Rock (GB). Blue and Snow were numerous (DG, EG) with a peak of 8000 (GB). The duck migration was thought late by a week or more (JR). There was the usual number of species, but numbers of individuals were fewer (PK). The number of Mallards was down in Polk Co. Wood Ducks were scarce (JR), but lots were seen (PK). Redheads were more numerous (JR, EG). Ring-necked were somewhat scarcer (JR), but Canvasbacks were more numerous (JR, EG). Scaups were very numerous around Des Moines, and more Common Goldeneyes than usual were seen. Buffleheads were again numerous, 12-25 were seen in March (PP) and 35 were at Rock Creek Lake on 4 April (HD), while a very late one was seen on 16 May (DK). While not a migration item, a female Oldsquaw below the Red Rock dam seen by Paul Kline and Doyle Woods on 2 January is noteworthy. Hooded Mergansers were fewer than last year, and not so many Common Mergansers were noted (WHB). The high at Red Rock was 40 (GB). Red-breasted Mergansers were seen in larger numbers than usual (WHB, PP), but were fewer (GB).

**Vultures, Hawks.** All hawks were though scarce (FK). The earliest Turkey Vultures were several seen on 3 and 5 April (JK) 8 on 12 April and late migrants were 3 on 18 May at the Davenport Museum (PP). Number roosting at Red Rock are down considerably (GB). Only 4 Sharp-shinned were banded this year as compared with 20 in 1970 (JR), but 5 banded 28 April at Davenport (PP). An unusual concentration of Red-tailed Hawks occurred on 27 March with 60 seen in a short distance, and 28 observed the following day along a 20-mile stretch of river (DR). A Red-shouldered was reported on 30 March (J, DB). Rather early Broad-winged were seen on 20 April (PP) and 21 April (RZ). The Rough-legged reported at the Cedar Rapids meeting on 9 May was observed at rather close range (DH). Bald Eagles were mentioned by several; 1 along the Maquoketa River on 2 March (GE), 7 between Bellevue and Savannah on 7 March (JK), 2 immatures at Little Wall and Anderson Lakes on 4 April (JR), 2 at Keokuk 10 April (PP). At Red Rock the high was 5 on 6 April (GB) while 6 were reported to have been at Otter Creek (fide RH). Marsh Hawks were numerous (GB). An Osprey on 17 March was rather early (DM); others were seen 13 April (LS), 2 late in April (DR), and one on 29 April at Twin Lakes (DM). A Peregrine was observed at Red Rock on 2 May (JR). All reporters considered the Sparrow Hawk migration to have been a good one. A pair is reported nesting in a niche on the top of a store building in Hamburg (EG).

**Prairie Chickens, Bobwhites, Pheasants.** Prairie Chickens were seen in the Hamburg area on 27 and 29 March and 10 April (EG). Bobwhites and Pheasants were both thought plentiful (DG, EG, GB).

**Shorebirds.** Soras are numerous (JR). Golden Plovers were widely reported but only two mentions of Black-bellied; several at Des Moines on 15 May (MB, PM) and 2 on the 16th (GB). First Woodcock were seen on 14 March (PP, CH) and the latest on 13 May (FK). They were thought numerous (JF) and there was an unconfirmed report of nesting at Maffit Lake near Des Moines. A flock of 15 Snipe was seen on 6 May (DM). The courtship flights were watched from 15 April to 6 May, but the birds were gone by 10 May (GB). Upland Plover were rather early with 5 seen on 2 May (HP). The usually rare Willet was seen on four dates near Des



Moines; 28 April, 1 (MB,WHB), 30 April, 9 (DM,WHB) and 14 (HP), 1 May, 2 (HP), and 3 May, 16 (WHB). One was seen at Red Rock on 9 May (WC). A new early record for Least Sandpipers was 10 April with 9 seen (JR). A flock of 21 Dunlin was at Red Rock on 16 May (GB,WC). A Long-billed Dowitcher was identified on 2 May (PP). On 2 May 2 Marbled Godwits were seen at Hendrickson's Marsh (JR). Hudsonian Godwits were reported; 9 May, 5 (WC), 16 May, 56 (GB,WC), and 59 on 16 May at Hendrickson's Marsh (JR,SH). Avocets were seen twice, on 2 May (WC) and 13 May at Lake Macbride (FK).

**Gulls, Terns.** Bonaparte's Gulls were at Swan Lake on 14 April (LS) and on 3 May at Little Wall Lake (DB). On 9 May 2 Caspian Terns were at L & D 9 (DK), and 21 were seen on 16 May (WC).

**Cuckoos.** No report of Yellow-billed has been received. The only mention of the Black-billed was of 1 on 9 May (DH). On 19 May, 1 was seen at Big Wall Lake (WHB) and 1 was reported to have been killed by flying into a window in Des Moines.

**Owls.** Screech, Horned and Barred are in good numbers with the latter probably up in numbers (JR). In mid-February 7 Long-eared were seen daily and Short-eared were more numerous than usual with as many as 10 seen on 12 April (DG). An adult Screech Owl intermediate in plumage between the red and gray phases was banded (JR).

**Goatsuckers, Swifts.** A Chuck-will's-widow was seen at Shenandoah on 7 May (Jean Broley fide RZ). An early Whip-poor-will was heard on 11 April (JR). Chimney Swifts arrived in numbers on 26 April (JR), but the first seen on 12 April equals the previous early date (PP). They were thought not numerous (GB).

**Flycatchers, Swallows.** All flycatchers were late (PK) and no Empidonaces have been seen (GDeL). A good movement chiefly of Yellow-bellied at Davenport occurred on 22 May (PP). A new early date for Tree Swallows was 18 March (PP). Fewer Cliff Swallows are nesting at Red Rock dam due to House Sparrows taking over the nests (GB). Purple Martins are late (PK) and down (GB).

**Nuthatches, Wrens.** Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded on 15 and 17 March (PP). A Winter Wren was seen at Beverly on 7 April (LS). Bewick's Wrens were present through April but followed the 10-year pattern and left upon the arrival of House Wrens (GB).

**Mimics, Thrushes.** Only 3 pairs of Mockingbirds are present compared with 6 pairs last year (GB). One was seen on 14 May (PK). No Catbirds have been seen in the Sioux City area (DH). Two early male Robins appeared on 20 February (JK). They are thought not so many (GB), but great flocks were seen on 14 March (CH). There are very many in the Des Moines area. Both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were late. Both are thought numerous (PK), but no Swainson's and only 1 Gray-cheeked were seen (GDeL). Veeries are reported (PK,DB). The Townsend's Solitaire which wintered was last seen on 25 April (E. Walters fide RZ).

**Kinglets, Pipits.** A wave of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was noticed on 13 April (DB) but no report of Golden-crowned. Small numbers, from 2-6, Water Pipits were seen from 15 April to 5 May (DG) and 1 was seen on 20 March (PP).

**Shrikes.** A Northern Shrike was identified on 21 March (RH). There appeared to be a good migration of Loggerheads through Polk Co.

**Vireos, Warblers.** The consensus is that all vireos and warblers have been late and scarce with no pronounced waves observed. A White-eyed Vireo was seen at Palisades on 8 May (FK). A Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Ledges on 15 and 17

May (JR). A Black-throated Blue is reported (DB). The Yellow-throated Warbler has again been found at Ledges on 15 May (JR). The usually common Myrtle has been extremely scarce around Des Moines, but thought numerous (PK). On 5 May, 10 Northern Waterthrushes were netted (PP). A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen (PK).

**Blackbirds, Tanagers.** Immense flocks of mixed blackbirds were noticed in Polk Co. in March and April. Baltimore Orioles seem fewer (GB) but are much in evidence in Polk Co. From 3-10 Brewer's Blackbirds were seen daily during the last half of April (DG). A Summer Tanager is reported from the Ledges on 17 May (Steve Hanselman fide JR).

**Finches.** The sparrow migration also appears to have been late and thin. The last date for Purple Finch was 3 May, and for Pine Siskin, 1 May (PP). The towhee of the spotted variety which wintered was last seen on 18 April (see longer note, Mrs. Eldon Spears fide RZ). A LeConte's Sparrow was seen on 16 May (DK). The last date for the Junco was 1 May (PP). A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported (PK) and several were seen on the Des Moines spring count (MB). Only one Lincoln's Sparrow was noted (PK) with very few in Des Moines. About 50 Lapland Longspurs were seen on 3 March (LS).

The deadline for reports for the summer season will be 15 September.

Contributors: Gladys Black, Pleasantville and Red Rock Refuge; Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Dorothy, Joe, and W. H. Brown, Des Moines; Wm. Criswell, Red Rock Refuge; G. DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Durow, Newton; Grace Ehlers, Maquoketa; John Faaborg, Ames; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni, Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Clarise Hewitt, Jesup; Jerry Kaufman, Dubuque; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Mrs. I. H. McDonald, Lohrville; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Pauline Mooney, Des Moines; Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Jim Rod, Ames; Dean Roosa, Lehigh; Mrs. P. L. Scott, Seymour; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids, Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. Woodward H. Brown, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

## GENERAL NOTES



**One Day Eagle Count - February 20 or 21, 1971 --** Most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, as well as most of the Illinois River, was covered. Kentucky again was covered by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. A few additional areas came in. St. Louis led again in the number of people taking part with about 200. A total slightly under 500 people were involved. The area from Lock & Dam 12 at Bellevue, Iowa, to Keokuk was covered by both plane and cars. A careful comparison was made. Dr. DeDecker flew the plane with Pete Petersen doing the counting. Dr. L. H. Princen handled the data for the Illinois River. Sergej Postupalsky covered part of the Wisconsin River, included with totals for the Mississippi. Many groups of people participated - Fish & Wildlife people, game management, lockmasters, and bird watchers all took part. Thanks to all of them!



## GENERAL NOTES

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Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total
Lock & Dam 3 thru				
Lock & Dam 11	130	23	1	154
Lock & Dam 12 to				
Lock & Dam 18	186	41	2	229
Keithsburg, Illinois				
to Pool 22	108	28	0	136
Pool 22 to below				
St. Louis	70	43	7	120
Illinois River	<u>41</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>78</u>
River totals	535	170	12	717
	76 %	24 %		
Illinois Wildlife				
Refuges	1	12		13
Kentucky	<u>28</u>	<u>43</u>		<u>71</u>
TOTALS	564	225	12	801
	71.5 %	28.5 %		
Other Reports:				
Squaw Creek, Mo.	27	19	13	59
Part of Missouri River	8	2	0	10
Nebraska	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>17</u>
Totals	41	31	14	86
	57 %	43 %		

This completes 12 years of study. The first two were somewhat limited in scope and did not cover as much of the southern section where more immatures are found. The percentage for those two years were adults 86 percent and immatures 14 percent. The average number of eagles seen was 286.

For the period 1962 thru 1966 an average of 601 eagles were found - percentage 80 percent adults and 20 percent immatures.

For the period 1967 thru 1971 an average of 745 eagles were found - percentage 72 percent adults and 28 percent immatures.

Golden Eagles as follows: 1 immature at Davenport, Iowa; one in Union County and one at St. Louis; 2 adults in Kentucky. - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Avenue, East Moline, Illinois

**Banding a Northern Shrike in Southern Iowa** - There wasn't a ripple of a wind the morning of November 18, 1970. My friend, Mrs. DeLong, with whom I had been banding, was to be gone for three days. It was too nice a morning not to go to our Manti woods near Shenandoah. So shortly after 7:00 a.m. I was on my way by myself to Manti.

Our favorite place to put up a net is parallel with the end of a multiflora rose hedge. Birds in the early morning fly from this hedge across a creek into a weedy pasture. I had scarcely time to get the net fastened to the end of the other pole before I was netting Tree Sparrows. How I love to hold them in my hand and admire the soft shades of brown, the yellow under mandible, and the dot in the middle of their breast. In this place we band many Harris' Sparrows, too, and have had good returns on them from previous years.

Across the creek in a hemp patch I put up another net and one in the timber. I was happy to get the two Hairy Woodpeckers in the timber, for so far this year we had not had a Hairy for our 1970 list.

When I checked the net in the hemp, I was amazed! It was hanging heavy with Tree Sparrows. My watch told me it was 10:00 a.m. and time to take the nets down because I had to be at the church at 2:15 p.m. with refreshments for my church circle. To add to the confusion, while banding the Tree Sparrows I upset one string of bands in the grass. This delayed me trying to locate everyone of them.

With only one net left by the multiflora rose hedge, I crossed the bridge. I was praying there would be no birds in this net as time was running out on me. I approached the net with mixed emotions, for there were birds and I knew at one glance I had a shrike and that it was a Northern Shrike. I had often looked at the picture of this shrike in my bird book. I could see the finely barred breast and the light lower mandible. Near him was a dead sparrow. The shrike had given him a striking blow and then entangled himself in the net. He was a mean one to recover, biting me fiercely. My fingers and hand became red with blood, but I was determined to hang on to him and to have this new species for our record.

It was late, too late, when I headed back to town with the shrike in my carrying cage. I needed someone to confirm what I had banded. I took the bird to Mrs. Frances Braley and Mrs. R. Bordner, who have helped us so many times with identification of confusing fall warblers. I took time to go to the high school to show Mrs. Donald Walters and to Central School to show Mrs. Eldon Spears, both of whom were able to add a Northern Shrike to their life list. Then I dashed out to Manti again to release the bird where I had netted him and without having lunch, I slid into home base just in time to get to the church with my refreshments at 2:15 p.m.

What an exciting morning to have banded 46 birds by myself, including a Northern Shrike, the first one ever banded in Iowa! - Mrs. E. C. ZOLLARS, 310 University, Shenandoah.

**Wintering Lark Buntings in Arizona** -- What would you do if you found yourself on an Indian reservation at 6:30 in the morning with your car keys locked in your car? The sun was just beginning to rise above the horizon and it was cold on this morning, March 16, 1970. A few days before this, my husband and I were driving along a road late in the afternoon on the reservation when we saw thousands of wintering Lark Buntings on the ground east of a Pima Indian's adobe home. Some of the male buntings were in a more or less advanced state of black and white dress; otherwise they looked much like the females. They bounced along on the ground by hopping with their short feet. Then all of a sudden they rose into the air with a tremulous fluttering of motion of their wings. The sound was tremendous, much like geese and ducks when they take wing. When they moved across the field, the rear guard vaulted over the advanced contingent of the procession and then suddenly rose into the air.

When I told my friend from Colorado about this, she was curious to know if the buntings spent the night in the mesquite grove across the road. A study of Lark Buntings, the state bird of Colorado, is being made and she was interested in being able to band a goodly number. So she and I left early in her car that morning of the sixteenth for the reservation. Not one bunting did we see in the mesquite grove or



the meadow across the road where I had seen thousands. So we decided to explore the mesquite grove to see what might be there and when we came back to the car, my friend found she had locked the keys in her car. She asked me to stay with the car while she knocked on the door of the Indian's adobe home. He told her the only phone on the reservation was a mile away at the little Indian town of Bapchule and it was a pay telephone. Her pocketbook was locked in the car with her keys! The Indian gave a dime and as he was the driver for the school bus, he walked with her to the town to get his bus. He also waited, until it was time to go with his bus, to see if she might need further help. The operator was able to get the Triple A office in Chandler and soon help was on the way. Before she could walk back to the car, I saw the truck with flashing signals coming down the highway. It must have been a puzzle to the two men why two women were stranded on that road that early in the morning, but their motto is "To ask no questions, but mainly get one going."

My friend wanted to wait until the Indian got back with the school bus so she could reward him for his generous help. While we were waiting for him, thousands of Lark Buntings came down from the sky into a barley field to the west of the adobe home. Where they spent the night we do not know, but we did find out it was a feeding area. Had we not locked our keys in the car, our mission would have been a failure. Also the Indian told her she would be welcome to set her nets in his fields to band the buntings, if she could get permission from the Tribal Council of the Indian Agency. We both had to leave Arizona before the next meeting of the Tribal Council, but we have hopes of banding next winter if the buntings still use this field for a feeding ground. -- MRS. W. C. DeLONG, 1206 Johnson Dr., Shenandoah.

**Lark Buntings in Plymouth County** -- The Lark Bunting is considered as a rare migrant in Iowa but in this farthest west county I see from a few to perhaps twenty or more each spring during migration. I have only one late summer sighting recorded and am not sure if this is because they return south by another route or if because the males have lost their black and white nuptial plumage and are harder to see. They are not known to nest here in recent years. Some years ago the late William Youngworth said the last possible nesting he was fairly certain of was about twenty years ago near Larchwood.

The first Lark Bunting in 1970 was a female sighted on May 14. From that date I saw them every day or nearly so until July 1. By late May it became evident that I was seeing Lark Buntings in several spots with regularity. I could see several pairs almost any time I wished if I checked any of four grassy areas or fields diverted from crop production. One of these fields was on the route I drove several times each day as I went from one of our farms to the other. I checked this field on foot several times and am certain that at least six pair were apparently nesting there. I never did actually locate a nest in this heavily grassed field of about 40 acres but the alarm cries and nervous behavior of the Lark Buntings as I criss-crossed the area made me quite certain their nests were there. Casual observation indicated that about the same number were living in the other three fields. Whenever we would drive several miles in almost any direction in the west half of the county we would usually see Lark Buntings on the fences. There were no sightings after July 1 when all of the Buntings seemed to have moved out.

There is no doubt in my mind that for some unknown reason Western Plymouth County had a very noticeable invasion of this interesting Western species in 1970. ELDON BRYANT, RR 1, Alvon.

**Wild Turkeys heard at Andy Mountain** -- The Wild Turkeys are making themselves hear in the mountains of beautiful Northeast Iowa. This past summer those of us who live at Andy Mountain Campground at Harpers Ferry, as well as a few lucky people camping there, were given a special treat when the Wild Turkeys announced their residence there with some lively calling back and forth across the wooded valley. We have had sightings of these birds on top of Andy Mountain in previous years, but this is the first year they have sounded their cry within hearing of the campground.

The first time we heard them was at noon time, and we heard them at various times of day for many days. If we hadn't known of the presence of **WILD** Turkeys in our area, their call would not have informed us, as they sound very much like the domestic birds. If any member of I.O.U. would like to be notified when the birds "sound off" again between May and November, they could send us a self-addressed postcard and we will let them know. - Mrs. R. W. Daubendiek, 504 Center Ave., Decorah,

**Broken-winged Bittern** - When a beautiful October afternoon comes along, it's hard to keep your mind on "business" -- whether it's a good football game on TV or work to be done in the garden. It's a perfect time to see if the fish are biting, so that's what my dad and I did. Well, we caught no fish, but we did catch something even more elusive.

As I neared the south end of the pond, a bird fluttered up out of the tall grass, then dropped back down out of sight. It was an American Bittern. I walked slowly toward the spot where it disappeared, expecting it to fly. It didn't. It crouched in the grass, long neck drawn back, sharp bill pointed at me, eyes glaring, feathers ruffled -- it looked as big as a turkey and **VERY FIERCE**. Pop came over to see, and as he approached, the bittern tried again to escape. It couldn't fly. I put my sweatshirt over its body, Pop wrapped his jacket around its neck and head, and I carried it to the car.

We have a big wooden box on the back porch, and put the bittern in that, with a screen for a lid. A kitten jumped up on the screen, then froze in terror as the bird began a weird metallic rattling noise -- rather like a wind-up toy running down. Next morning I took the bittern to the vet. The right wing was broken -- had been broken for probably three weeks or more, since scar tissue had formed over the protruding bone and the break had calcified. It couldn't be re-set.

So what do you do with a broken-winged bittern? Turn it loose again? While the bird might eventually learn to fly again, cold weather was catching up with it and it would soon either freeze or starve -- if a predator didn't catch it first. We put the bittern back in the box.

Food was the big problem. (We didn't realize how big until we tried catching minnows with an improvised net!) But a neighbor solved the problem; he goes fishing nearly every day and had some chubs left over. We really didn't think the bird would eat -- that's the hardest part of "rescuing" wild creatures. But I put on gloves and offered a chub. Snap! First chub gone in a gulp. Snap! Second one gone. Snap! There went number three. How much will a bittern eat? I was afraid to offer another fish -- didn't want to kill it with kindness. We were surprised that, in spite of its noted shyness and fierce look, the bittern was relatively "tame." After the first few times I put my hand in the cage, it made no effort to strike, and would



allow its back and neck to be stroked. It stopped making its frightful rattle. At such close range the bird was also surprisingly beautiful -- the colors and patterns of the feathers were anything but dull. It was in prime condition -- except for the broken wing.

Next morning the conservation officer arrived, and -- after a breakfast of two more chubs -- Benjamin Bittern started on his way to the Ledges State Park near Boone. There the Conservation Commission has a wildlife refuge and exhibit, and there the bittern will be cared for. If you ever go to the Ledges, look him up. KATHY FISHER, Rte 2, Keota.

**Cliff Swallows in Iowa City** - While attending the University of Iowa during the summers of 1968 and 1970, I observed Cliff Swallows nesting on the Iowa Avenue bridge. There were decidedly more swallows nesting on the bridge in 1970 than in 1968.

On June 29, 1968, I observed a Cliff Swallow flying about and hovering beneath the upstream edge of the Iowa Avenue bridge. I did not find a nest on this date. On July 8, however, I found a single nest on the downstream side of the bridge above the west pier. On July 15 I saw House Sparrows at the nest, but on July 23, 30, and August 2, Cliff Swallows were seen to enter and leave the nest. On August 6, two swallows were seen flying near the nest. If these birds, representing a nesting pair, did have young in late July and early August, this would be a fairly late nest record.



Cliff Swallows. Iowa Ave. Bridge, Iowa City. Photo by F. Z. Leshner.

On June 15, 1970 I saw three Cliff Swallows flying about on the upstream side of the Iowa Avenue bridge. By June 29 there were ten swallows at nests constructed on the upstream side of the bridge, and on June 30 approximately 30 swallows were at the site. On July 7, road work on the bridge, including the use of air-hammers directly over the nest site, may have disturbed the swallows, which could be seen flying in numbers greater than usual over the Iowa River. By July 20 most of the birds had left. On July 28 and August 7, single birds were seen about the nest site. On July 31, Cliff Swallows and several nests were seen on the downstream side of the park bridge in Iowa City, perhaps one-half mile upstream from the Iowa Avenue bridge. The photo, taken in July, 1970, shows approximately 20 nests. This was the heaviest accumulation of nests. Others scattered about may have brought the total to between 30 and 40. This would indicate 60 to 80 birds. Cliff Swallows, however, have been known to practice polygamy and polyandry. Consequently, one cannot arrive at a total of nesting birds by multiplying by two the number of known nests. Also, one suspects a pair may build more than one nest, especially when English Sparrows may drive them from a nest. In any case, the number of swallows and nests at the Iowa City site multiplied many times from the summer of 1968 to the summer of 1970, - FREDERICK LESHER, 509 Winona St., LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

**An Orange-crowned Warbler in December** - An Orange-crowned Warbler came to the window feeder of Mrs. Ralph Derry, Lamoni, Iowa, on December 10, 1970. It was eating suet and bread crumbs rolled with nut meats. She called me on the phone and described the bird as a tiny green bird with no eye ring and no wing bars. She said she knew it was not a kinglet. I saw this bird at her feeder on Saturday, December 12. The bird made many trips allowing us to stand close to the window to watch it feed. Purple Finches and chickadees alighted on the feeder at the same time; however, they were interested mainly in the sunflower seeds.

On December 22, 1970, Mrs. Dean Ballantyne and I were in one party helping with the Christmas bird census for Lamoni, Iowa. Our first stop was at the Derry's feeder and we did see the Orange-crowned Warbler that morning. The last day that it was seen was December 23. It either went on south or perished in the severe cold weather on Christmas Day. - MRS. W. C. Delong, 314 N. Silver St. Lamoni.

**Varied Thrush in Cedar Rapids** - February 8, 1971, it was my great pleasure to identify a very rare bird in our area when I was called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Lundstrom, Edgewood Road in Cedar Rapids. It was a Varied Thrush and was first seen by the Lundstroms at their feeder area January 24. The bird came daily and fed frequently on seeds, largely cracked corn, scattered on the ground a few feet from a picture window in their home which afforded excellent views of the bird. Many times after feeding profusely here, the thrush would take a sunflower seed, which made up a small portion of its food, to a certain small area near a corner of the house which was free from snow where it ate the seed. This sunflower seed procedure climaxed that particular feeding. This bird never fed from the feeder - always from the ground. A number of the members of our local Audubon Naturalist Society observed this rare species later.



As winter progressed, the thrush came to the feeding area less often, sometimes being observed only once a day. It was last seen on April 10. To date from records in *Iowa Bird Life*, the Varied Thrush has been observed in three other Iowa areas and all are winter records. - LILLIAN SERBOUSEK, 1226 2nd St. S. W., Cedar Rapids.

**A Loggerhead Shrike Observation.** - On 2 April, 1971, a Loggerhead Shrike spent the entire morning in our yard. I first saw it at 8:20 at a distance of 30 feet perched in a chokecherry tree where it sat looking first in one direction and then in another. No birds smaller than a Starling appeared, but at 8:35 the shrike espied a dead House Sparrow on the ground nearby. It flew down and soon detached a wing to which was attached a bone with considerable flesh on it. The bird flew to its perch where it experienced some difficulty in finding suitable forks in which to wedge the food, and 10 minutes elapsed before it was consumed. The shrike again flew to the remains of the sparrow and carried this to the tree where the same feeding performance took place. Several times the prey fell apart and each time the portion dropping to the ground was retrieved and eaten.

The feeding lasted for two hours during which time House Sparrows and Juncos came to the yard to feed, but these were ignored. At one time a Blue Jay, impelled by hunger or curiosity, attempted to alight near the shrike but was repulsed. A little later the shrike was surrounded by Starlings but paid no attention to them until one came too close whereupon it was chased.

The shrike remained in the yard for several hours after eating and then disappeared. At no time was it seen to touch the food with its feet, even when dismembering it initially. - WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

**Western Birds at Feeders in Southwest Iowa** - A Red-shafted Flicker was a constant boarder in the town of Hamburg, Iowa, during the winter of 1971 at the Edwin Getscher residence. This is the second winter that the Red-shafted Flicker has come to Mrs. Getscher's feeder.

A Townsend Solitaire spent the winter at Mrs. Donald Walter's farm home, ten miles north of Shenandoah, Iowa. It was first observed by her in her yard on October 17, 1970, eating the blue berries of a juniper. The solitaire was listed on the Shenandoah Audubon Christmas count which was taken December 26, 1970. Mrs. Walter's father often saw him sitting in a tree in the feed lot during the month of January. South of the feed lot, there is a drainage ditch bordered by many trees, bushes, and shrubs. The ditch is fed by springs so in winter one can always find running water. Many small cedar trees grow at the bottom of the ditch and the solitaire no doubt could find plenty of cedar berries for food.

The solitaire's song is often described as a "silvery cascade of melody." In the mountains he is often referred to as a "rapt cornetist of the peaks." In the fall Mrs. Walters heard him sing and described his song as having a soft tone, but on April 7, 1971, the solitaire was back in the yard again singing and eating juniper berries and bittersweet. This time she described his song as being clear and pure and having loud ringing notes as full of life and vigor as the mountain air itself. This was the last date the solitaire was seen.

On January 30, 1971, Mrs. Eldon Spears, who lives on a farm south of Shenandoah, Iowa, saw the western race of a Rufous-sided Towhee hop up on her

feeder with four Harris' Sparrows. His favorite food seemed to be cracked corn, but Mrs. Spears did see him at times sample the sunflower seeds. He continued to come to the feeder during the month of February, especially when the snow covered the ground. Mrs. Spears, who is a teacher in the Shenandoah Schools, said she was probably the only one in southwest Iowa who was glad to see the snowstorm of February 22, 1971. Having no school because of the storm, she was able to watch the towhee all morning come to the feeder for his corn. The last date that she saw him was April 18, 1971. - MRS. W. C. DELONG, 314 N. Silver, Lamoni.

**Abnormal Bill in Common Grackle** - An adult male Common Grackle (*Quiscalus Quiscula*) with a deformed lower mandible was captured in a mist net at Ames, Iowa on 7 April, 1970. The bird, apparently healthy, weighed 117.4 gm at 5:00 PM, approximately 24 hours after capture. This falls within the normal weight range of adult male Common Grackles as reported by Amadon (*Auk* 61: 136, 1944).

The rami of the lower mandible are completely separated (see photo) and each half has grown vertically, suggesting less than normal wear against the upper mandible. The rami are abnormally spearated in that they rest outside of and somewhat above the upper mandible when the bill is closed. Length of the exposed culmen is 30 mm. The right half of the lower mandible, slightly larger than the left, measures 26 mm from feathered base to tip and a 5.5 mm in depth.

Pomeroy (*Brit. Birds* 55: 49, 1962) listed the major causes of bill deformities as accident, disease, and genetic with most deformities resulting from genetic causes. Because it is difficult to conceive of an accident that would result in a split



Photo by Jim Rod.



lower mandible and because the condition appears to have existed for some time, I feel this particular deformity probably resulted from genetic causes. In classifying deformities, Pomeroy lists only one record of a bird with unfused lower rami, that of a female Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). The godwit was collected by Harrisson (Brit. Birds 40: 120, 1947) and weighed about one third less than normal suggesting to Harrisson that the bird could not feed normally. Apparently the Common Grackle was able to overcome this problem. The bird is now in the Iowa State University collection. - JAMES P. ROD, 1508 Kellogg, Ames, Iowa.

**Blue Grosbeaks and Lark Buntings in Iowa** -- On June 21, 1970, at about 3:45 p.m. one mile north of Percival, Iowa (Forney Lake area); Harold and I saw one male Lark Bunting (*Galamospiza melancorys*) and two female Lark Buntings. The male was on the telephone wire above and both females were on the roadside below. As we watched, one of the females quickly ate a rather large butterfly. Possibly one of the Fritillaries or a Painted Lady. It was devoured so quickly I could not be sure. Until now I was not aware that small birds ate butterflies that large.

In the same general area we also saw a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) on a telephone wire and what we believed was a female Blue Grosbeak on the roadside below. It flew before we could make positive identification - its lack of wing bars. Its coloring was right otherwise.

We have had both of these species in the Lincoln area for quite some time, the blue Grosbeaks since the early 1950's and the buntings since 1964. Both species have nested a number of times although we do not have records of them nesting every year. This year the Lark Bunting nested in a Christmas tree farm about seven miles east of Lincoln. The owners of the farm left the grass uncut and observed at least a dozen nests with young being fed. -- MRS. H. V. WHITMUS, 5800 Saylor, Lincoln, Nebr.

#### CLINICAL REPORT - May 13, 1968

PATIENT - Marcella Dawson, Marshalltown.

CHIEF COMPLAINTS - inability to recognize even the most common birds, and their songs.

PAST HISTORY - very indifferent attitude toward feathered friends - lived on farm as child but remained ignorant of the habits of these creatures.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION - a very healthy normal (?) middle aged female with average intelligence but lower than average memory.

TENTATIVE DIAGNOSIS - slight case of bird fever. This lady would like to know more about birds and wild life in general but does not seem to want to or be able to take the time to really delve into the subject.

TREATMENT - bird watching classes and frequent trips to timbers - bird feeders in back yard - binoculars - very patient supervision by Mrs. Grimes, teacher and neighbor.

PROGNOSIS - this patient will probably never be a very learned or expert bird watcher, but with proper supervision will be able to distinguish some calls and recognize a good number of the more common species of birds. Her growing interest will hopefully pass on to her children and they will thereby gain from her learnings and experiences. Also as she grows older and has more free time, bird watching might well become a very enjoyable hobby and pastime.

## BOOK REVIEWS



**Photographing Nature** -- G. J. H. Moon -- Charles E. Tuttle and Co., Rutland, Vt., -- 144p., 163 photographs, 47 in color -- 1970 -- \$10.00.

A well written book which is just what the title implies. The author is a well known New Zealand photographer and the examples of his work included in the book attest to his ability. Not all the photographs illustrate examples of successful nature photography -- many show equipment and techniques used. Over half of the book is devoted to bird photography, probably because it is more challenging than photographing immobile forms such as flowers. After discussing the equipment available the author gets into the area of bird work with sections on the use of blinds, artificial lights, combined flash and daylight and flight photography. Other sections dealing partly with birds are close-up photography and cinematography. A useful glossary is included. This book is packed with valuable information for the novice photographer, and it also has a few good ideas for the expert, especially since it is written by a person from a different part of the world. ed.

**A portfolio of New Zealand Birds** -- Bruce Harvey -- Charles E. Tuttle and Co., Rutland, Vt. -- 62p., 25 color plates, 29 sketches -- folio size -- 1970 -- \$17.50.

A "companion volume" to **A Portfolio of Australian Birds** by Cooper, reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 40, p. 55-56. It differs in that the plates are printed on white paper and a more diverse group of species is depicted. The quality of the reproductions is again excellent and a bit of life history information is included for each species. A sketch of each bird is included, usually depicting some phase of the life history differing from the plate. This volume provides an excellent glimpse of the bird life of New Zealand and introduces another good bird artist to the bird art fraternity of America. ed.

**Photographer in the Rain-Forest** -- Paul Griswold Howes -- Sylvanus Books, Norton, Conn. -- 218p., 196 photographs -- 1970 -- \$6.95.

A collection of first-hand observations about three representative neotropical rain-forests based on various expeditions in which the author participated. He accompanied some of the foremost naturalists of this century including Theodore Roosevelt, William Beebe, Frank Chapman and Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The specific areas covered include areas in Guyana, the island of Dominica and Eastern Columbia. The author has spent his life as a naturalist and museum curator and does a fine job of imparting something of the impressiveness of the fine areas which are rapidly disappearing. The diversity within this habitat is surprising to anyone who visualizes the horrible, "Tarzan movie" type of rain-forest. Both armchair explorers and world travelers will enjoy this book. ed.



**Outlines of Environmental Education** -- Edited by Clay Schoenfeld -- Dembar Educational Research Services, Inc., Madison, Wisc. -- 246p. -- 1971 -- \$8.95.

This book is a compilation of articles from the journal **Environmental Education**. The material is divided into sections concerned with the environmental decade, defining environmental education, the schools which encompass environmental education, new learning laboratories in the field and factory and adult education for ecological action. With the great concern among many citizens for the environment there is a need for educating them properly in this area so they can judge the issues of the day for themselves. It would be a great help if adult education programs could offer a course in ecology or the environment with the guidance of books such as this. Davenport will be offering such a course in the fall of 1971. Will it be the only Iowa city? ed.

**Infections and Parasitic Diseases of Wild Birds** -- edited by John W. Davis, Roy C. Anderson, Lars Karstad and Daniel O. Tranter -- Iowa State University Press, Ames -- 344p. many photographs and line drawings -- 1971 -- \$12.50.

Much is yet to be learned of the effect of disease in wild bird populations. This is the first truly comprehensive collection of what is now known about these diseases. The general types of diseases covered include viral diseases, 13 bacterial rickellial and mycotic diseases, parasitic infections, neoplastic diseases and toxins. For each disease the authors provide a basic knowledge of the etiology, history, distribution, epizootiology, signs, pathology, immunity, diagnosis, treatment and control. This book is the result of the work of 28 authors and provides a fine reference tool in this area. All college libraries and larger public libraries should have this book. Any serious ornithologist especially interested in this area will find it of great value. ed.

**The Hawks of New Jersey** -- Donald S. Heintzelman -- New Jersey State Museum, Trenton -- 104p., 30 photographs, many line drawings -- 1971 -- paperbound -- \$1.75.

A book with much greater appeal than the title would indicate. Chapters on the fossil record, food chains and food webs, the autumn hawk migration, rare and endangered species and hawk identification apply generally to all of the United States. The remaining chapter, the species accounts, contains much information of widespread interest. These accounts include colloquial names, field marks, New Jersey range, nest, eggs, general comments, a photograph and a graph of food consumed. ed.

**The Pine Barrens -- A Preliminary Ecological Inventory** -- Jack McCormick -- New Jersey State Museum -- Trenton -- 104p. -- 23 photographs, maps and a table -- 1971 -- paperbound -- \$2.75.

A comprehensive report on a survey of the various components of the Pine Barrens ecosystem. The various animals and plants are listed and the vegetation associations are defined. Suggestions for preservation of the essential features are discussed. The survey concluded that 168,000 of the 365,000 total acres in the Pine Barrens should be recognized as nationally significant. It should serve as an example for other regions where action to preserve biologically distinctive areas

often comes when it is too late to preserve enough of a unique area to provide for all forms found there. ed.

**Owls, Their Natural and Unnatural History** -- John Sparks and Tony Soper -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 206p 18 photographs (one in color), many line drawings, 1970 -- \$5.95.

The work of two Englishmen, this book brings together an interesting collection of facts concerning owls. The European species are emphasized, as might be expected, but North American species are not entirely overlooked and of course some species occur on both continents. The book opens with a discussion on adaptation for night life, followed by information on the breeding cycle. Factors affecting populations of owls are covered, including some very good, basic food chain background. The authors then discuss the relationship between owls and man, continuing with a picture of the fossil record and size range in the families. The final chapter covers the unnatural history, dealing chiefly with literary references. Several appendices cover details on sight, hearing, nest boxes and a systematic list.

This book is written on a level for anyone from high school up. It would make a fine book for school and public libraries, since it contains reference type material while providing interesting reading. ed.

#### XVI INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The International Ornithological Committee agreed at the end of the XV International Ornithological Congress in the Hague, Netherlands, that the next Congress would be held in Australia in 1974. Professor J. Dorst was appointed President. The Australian invitation had been proffered jointly by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union and the Australian Academy of Science.

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union appointed Dr. H. J. Frith as Secretary-General and an Australian Advisory Committee has been formed. After close examination of the possibilities the Australian Advisory Committee has decided that the XVI International Ornithological Congress should be held in the Australian National University in Canberra in the period 12 August to 17 August 1974. A programme of scientific sessions, major and minor excursions and ornithological exhibits will be organized.

Applications for membership will be accepted until March 1, 1974. Applications for the presentation of papers and for arranging Specialist's Meetings should reach the Secretary-General not later than February 1, 1974. It is probably that, apart from those presented by invitation in a Symposium, there will be some selection of the papers that are actually read. Accordingly it is essential that each offer of a paper should be accompanied by a summary of about 200 words.

Information regarding the XVI International Ornithological Congress can be had from -

The Secretary-General,  
XVI International Ornithological Congress,  
P.O. Box 84,  
Lyneham. A.C.T.  
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